

his ochrascenti marginatis, minimis externis virescenti-cyaneo lavatis; tectricibus primariorum remigibusque saturate brunneis, extus sordide viridi lavatis; dorso postico et uropygio argenteo-scenti-cyaneis; supracaudalibus et rectricibus saturate brunneis viridi lavatis; gula alba; corpore reliquo subtus cum subalaribus ochrascenti-fulvis; remigibus infra fuscis, intus pallide ochraceo marginatis. Long. tot. 12, culm. 1.95, alæ 6.35, caudæ 4.7, tarsi 0.9.

A second example has the tail reddish, with remains of dusky margins to the feathers of the under surface and the collar on the hind neck: these markings are a sign of immaturity in the Dacelonine group of Kingfishers. The difference in the red and dusky green tails exhibited in *Clytoceyx* sufficiently demonstrates the affinity of the new genus to the genus *Dacelo*, and more especially to *Dacelo Gaudichaudi*.

XXX.—On *Cynanthus bolivianus*, Gould.

By D. G. ELLIOT, F.R.S.E. &c.

IN the Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. for June, p. 488, Mr. Gould has described a species of *Cynanthus*, brought by Mr. Buckley from Bolivia, as distinct from *C. mocoa*, under the name of *C. bolivianus*, basing his specific characters on its "smaller size," its "brighter metallic green," and its tail "more of a brilliant steel-blue than a vivid green." Being somewhat surprised that I and other ornithologists had overlooked a new species in our collections of so exceptionally conspicuous a form, I re-examined my series of *C. mocoa*, in order to endeavour to distinguish this new species from amongst my specimens, with the following results. Ten specimens of *C. mocoa* were available for the investigation, among which were those brought by Buckley from Bolivia and Ecuador, others from Peru procured by Jelski, and one specimen from Mr. Gould's collection, the locality doubtful. Those from Bolivia are from the same lot from which Mr. Gould obtained his *C. bolivianus*, and came from the Chairó road, between La Paz and Yungas. There are several of these in my collection; ample to show any specific difference, did it exist, from Ecuadorian specimens. In the general size of the birds from all the localities there is no appreciable difference. Mr. Gould gives the total length of the Bolivian bird as 6.3 inches, culmen 8.7, wing 2.6, tail 4.1, tarsus 0.2; and the Ecuadorian as 8 inches, wing 3, tail 5.5. My specimens (from Baños, Ecuador, *Buckley*) measure as follows:—

	Total length. inches.	Wing. inches.	Tail. inches.	Culmen. inch.
1. ♂	$7\frac{1}{4}$	$2\frac{3}{4}$	5	$\frac{1}{2}$
2. ♂	$6\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{7}{8}$	$\frac{1}{16}$

From Bolivia (*Buckley*) :—

3. ♂	7	$2\frac{1}{8}$	$4\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{5}{16}$
4. ♂	$6\frac{3}{4}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{3}{4}$	$\frac{5}{16}$
5. ♂	$6\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{2}$	$\frac{5}{16}$
6. ♂, Peru	$6\frac{1}{2}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{1}{4}$	$\frac{5}{16}$

Mr. Gould's specimen (locality, Ecuador?) :—

7. ♂	$6\frac{7}{8}$	$2\frac{1}{2}$	$4\frac{5}{8}$	$\frac{1}{2}$
------------	----------------	----------------	----------------	---------------

Another specimen from Baños, Ecuador (*Buckley*), has not the tail fully developed; so I do not give the measurements; and two others are females. All the above are adult males in perfect plumage. It will be noticed that none of them has a total length of 8 inches, given by Mr. Gould as the measurement of *C. mocoa*, the largest being $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches; and this example, I consider, has an unusually long tail. The make-up of a skin causes a total length to vary sometimes very considerably; and it should always be mistrusted as indicating a specific character in birds like those of the family Trochilidæ. The length of wing, as will be seen, is about the same; while of the tail, the shortest is found in a specimen from Ecuador, as is also the longest. From the foregoing, as well as from my experience in these birds, I do not think that a slight difference in the measurement of any of their parts has any specific value whatever; and no specimen should be separated from its fellows as distinct with only a slight difference in size to substantiate its claim. Finding measurements unprofitable, I turned to colour. The "brighter metallic green" being only a comparative distinction from a "bright metallic green" proved to be a very difficult character to seize upon, as the colour of the birds varied in hue and intensity as the rays of light fell upon them; but it was easy to see that all possessed the same colouring, be the metallic hues bright, brighter, or brightest. The single remaining point was that the tail of the Bolivian bird should be more of a brilliant "steel-blue" than "vivid green." If this last should prove to be a stable character, there might be something in it; but what did the examination show? That no. 4, from Bolivia, possessed the most brilliant metallic green tail of all the specimens!!; and next to it was no. 5, also from Bolivia; while no. 2, from Ecuador, and no. 1, from Ecuador, exhibited rectrices of the same hues slightly tinged with steel-

blue, while the Peruvian bird, no. 6, showed but a trace of steel-blue in the vivid green. Mr. Gould's specimen from Ecuador (?) had a little blue above the black on the outer rectrices. It would therefore seem to be quite evident that both discrepancy in size and variation in hues are individual characteristics among specimens of *C. mocoa*, as is observed among examples of *C. forficatus*, and not of any specific value, and that the *C. bolivianus*, Gould, should be relegated to the synonyms of *C. mocoa*, as an untenable species.

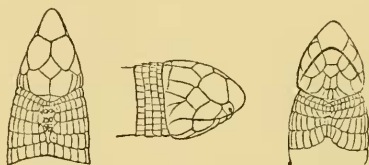
XXXI.—Description of new Species of Reptiles from Eastern Africa. By Dr. A. GÜNTHER, F.R.S., Keeper of the Zoological Department, British Museum.

THE British Museum has recently received some small consignments of reptiles from various parts of Eastern Africa, chiefly through the kindness of Dr. Kirk and Mr. Bewsher. The following very interesting species were recognized as undescribed.

GEOCALAMUS, g. n. Amphisbæen.

Allied to *Baikia*. Head very short, with compressed conical snout. Rostral large; two large frontalia form a suture together behind the rostral; vertical small, square, sometimes confluent with the frontals; two occipitals with small accessory scutes on the sides and behind. Nasal very small, above the first labial; ocular above the second and third labials. Three upper labials. Mentale square, of moderate size; three lower labials; gular scutes small, rather numerous. Sternal scutes similar to those of the body, oblong, quadrangular, small. Præanal shields two, triangular; præanal pores four. Lateral line distinct.

Geocalamus modestus.



One verticellus consists of 38 scutes, of which 17 are above, and 21 below the lateral lines. Upper parts greyish, lower white.